

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 021324Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PIOT, ECON, NI

SUBJECT: HEAD OF STATE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS:

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM TO RETURN NIGERIA TO CIVIL RULE

REF: A. LAGOS 9652 B. LAGOS 9656 C. LAGOS 7271

1. SUMMARY: IN MAJOR INDEPENDENCE DAY RADIO AND TV BROADCAST ADDRESS TO NATION OCTOBER 1, NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE FOCUSED ON FMG'S EFFORTS COUNTERACT "INDICIPLICE" AND CORRUPTION IN NATIONAL LIFE AND SAID STAGE NOW BEING SET TO BEGIN PROCESS RETURNING COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE. ANNOUNCED PROMISED FMG "POLITICAL PROGRAMME", A FIVE-STEP OUTLINE OF EVENTS WHICH WOULD GRADUALLY AND DELIBERATELY TURN GOVERNMENT OVER TO ELECTED CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVES BY OCTOBER 1, 1979. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY HIS REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

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2. CORRUPTION AND CIVIL SERVICE: BRIG. HUHAMMAD OPENED SPEECH BY SAYING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATES AND FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MOST URGENT ISSUES CONFRONTING COUNTRY SINCE HIS LAST ADDRESS TO NATION (JULY 30, SEE LAGOS 7271). WITH APPOINTMENTS STATE GOVERNMENTS' EXECUTIVE COUNCILS (TO BE NAMED BY END THIS MONTH), POLITICAL STRUCTURE BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE ADMINISTRATIONS WILL HAVE BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO GET ON WITH MORE VITAL NATIONAL ISSUES.

3. HEAD OF STATE THEN LAUNCHED INTO LONG COMMENTARY ON PROBLEMS FACING NIGERIA; "INDISCIPLINE IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE," PORTS CONGESTION, INFLATION, AND "OTHER CONSTRAINTS" WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING "SYMPTOMS OF A DEEPER MALAISE" AT ALL LEVELS PUBLIC SERVICES. GENERAL TONE AND EFFICIENCY THESE SERVICES HAD "PROGRESSIVELY DETERIORATED," AND NEW FMG THEREFORE HAS HAD TO APPLY FIRM, EVEN "DRASTIC MEASURES" TO CORRECT SITUATIONS. AS "FIRST STEP," ARMED FORCES, CIVIL SERVICE AND SOME GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN "CAREFULLY SCREENED" WITH INEFFICIENT, DISHONEST OR OTHERWISE UNSUITABLE STAFF MEMBERS BEING RETIRED OR DISMISSED. "MAJOR PART" THIS EXERCISE "CAN BE REGARDED AS NEARLY COMPLETED" AND REBUILDING ON NEW FOUNDATIONS COULD NOW BEGIN. MUHAMMED REITERATED FMG HAS HAD NO INTENTION ALLOWING CAMPAIGN "DEGENERATE INTO WITCH HUNT", THAT IT HAS RESPONSIBILITY PROTECT SERVICES FROM "UNSETTLING INFLUENCES" AND THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE DEAL WITH ANY IRRESPONSIBLE ATTEMPT TAKE ADVANTAGE CURRENT EXERCISE TO UNDERMINE SERVICES.

4. TURNING TO CURRENT AND FUTURE MEASURES IMPROVE SERVICES, BRIG. HUMAMMED REFERRED TO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ASSETS INVESTIGATION PANEL (SEE LAGOS 9656) AND SAID OFFICERS' ASSETS IN EXCESS WHAT COULD BE REASONABLY CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE EARNINGS WOULD BE CONFISCATED. HE ANNOUNCED FMG INTENTION ESTABLISH A PERMANENT "CORRUPT PRACTICES INVESTIGATION BUREAU" AND SPECIAL TRIBUNALS TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION CASES IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. OMBUDSMAN-LIKE "PUBLIC COMPLAINTS COMMISSION" WILL ALSO SOON BE SET UP (MALICIOUS COMPLAINTS WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PENALIZED SEVERELY, HOWEVER). REORGANIZATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND POLICE COUNCIL NOTED.

5. ECONOMY: IN SEEMINGLY PARENTHETICAL INSERTION INTO ABOVE DISCURSION, HEAD OF STATE SAID NIGERIAN ECONOMY HAS TO BE MODERNIZED AND "THERE MUST BE ROOM FOR PERSONAL INITIATIVE AND DRIVE." GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE PLAY

"DOMINANT ROLE" IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, "LEAVING ADEQUATE SCOPE FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE."

6. POLITICAL PROGRAM AND CIVIL RULE: FINALLY, BRIG. MUHAMMED ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY PROMISED (HIS JULY 30 ADDRESS) AND ANXIOUSLY AWAITED FMG "POLITICAL PROGRAMME." ULTIMATE AIM, HE SAID, IS "TO FORGE A VIABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE STABLE AND RESPONSIVE ENOUGH TO THE NEEDS AND REALITIES OF THIS COUNTRY." EXERCISE NOT MERELY MATTER OF DRAFTING CONSTITUTION BUT REQUIRES CONSTRUCTION VIABLE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BASED ON HARD EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE ENTIRE BODY POLITIC. IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO "SET STAGE" FOR SUCH CORPORATE EFFORT. TO ENSURE "SMOOTH TRANSITION" TO CIVIL RULE, SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FIVE STAGE PROGRAM. FIRST STAGE WILL ENTAIL SETTLEMENT OF STATES ISSUE--"ANY" NEW STATES WILL BE "FULLY ESTABLISHED" DURING THIS PHASE. COMMITTEE ON STATES WILL SUBMIT REPORT THIS DECEMBER AND PRELIMINARY STEPS FOR SETTING UP NEW STATES WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 1976. MEANWHILE, CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE WILL BE APPOINTED THIS MONTH AND WILL HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1976 TO PREPARE A "FIRST INITIAL DRAFT CONSTITUTION." IN STAGE 2, TO LAST TWO YEARS UNTIL OCTOBER 1978, "NEWLY CREATED STATES WILL BE GIVEN TIME TO SETTLE DOWN" AND THEN ENTIRE FEDERATION WILL START UPON "SYSTEMATIC AND DELIBERATE" REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETUP. FOLLOWING THAT REORGANIZATION, NON-PARTY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. PARTLY ELECTED, PARTLY NOMINATED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL THEN "CONSIDER AND ACCEPT" DRAFT CONSTITUTION, THEN BE DISSOLVED. STAGE 3 WILL BE "PREPARATORY STAGE FOR ELECTIONS." BAN ON POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE LIFTED OCTOBER 1978 AND PARTIES CAN THEN BEGIN PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS TO STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATURES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH ELECTIONS COMPRISE STAGES 4 AND 5, WILL BE CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO PRESCRIPTIONS NEW CONSTITUTION, AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 1, 1979. HEAD OF STATE CONCLUDED SAYING PRESENT MILITARY LEADERSHIP DOES NOT INTEND STAY IN OFFICE A DAY LONGER THAN NECESSARY (CERTAINLY NOT BEYOND OCTOBER 1, 1979 DATE).

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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INFO AMEMBASY ABIDJAN

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7. COMMENT: HEAD OF STATE'S SPEECH WAS RELATIVELY SHORT AND DIRECT. COVERED OR AT LEAST TOUCHED UPON MANY CRITICAL ISSUES OF DAY. COPIOUS NATURE BRIG. MUHAMMED'S REMARKS ON CORRUPTION/INEFFICIENCY, REFERENCE TO ASSETS INVESTIGATION PANEL, AND ANNOUNCEMENT PERMANENT CORRUPT PRACTICES INVESTIGATION BUREAU AND SPECIAL TRIBUNALS ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS FMG INTENDS CONTINUE KEEP HEAT ON SERVICES TO PRODUCE EFFECTIVELY AND WITH PROBITY. MAJOR NEW ITEMS OF COURSE IS DETAILED POLITICAL PROGRAM. FIVE-STEP PLAN, SET FORTH IN TYPICALLY SUCCINCT, BUSINESSLIKE FASHION, IS SIGN TO NIGERIAN POPULACE OF FMG'S GOOD INTENTIONS RETURN GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIAN HANDS. IT HOWEVER ALSO CLEAR THAT PRESENT REGIME DETERMINED TO CONTROL PROCESS ALL THE WAY. EVEN THOUGH BRIG. HUHAMMED TOOK PAINS ASSURE AUDIENCE MILITARY WOULD CLEAR OUT BY OCTOBER 1, 1979, TERMS OF METHODICAL, STEP-BY-STEP  
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PROGRESSION TO CIVILIAN RULE PUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT PROCESS COULD PRESUMABLY BE HALTED IF FMG SAW THINGS NOT GOING IN WAY IT DEEMED PROPER. ON BALANCE, FMG HAS

WITH COMMENDABLE PROMPTNESS PUT ON RECORD DEFINITE  
TIMETABLE FOR HANDLING OVER GOVERNMENT CIVILIANS, THUS  
SATISFYING CONSIDERABLE SEGMENT PUBLIC OPINION. BUT  
GOWON'S RETRACTION HIS PROMISE ADHERE TO TIMETABLE FOR  
RETURN CIVIL RULE STILL FRESH IN MINDS NIGERIANS, MANY  
OF WHOM REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF MILITARY'S REAL INTENTIONS.  
FOR MOMENT HOWEVER, MUHAMMED'S FMG SEEMS DETERMINED  
GIVE IMPRESSION OF GOOD FAITH. BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THREE MORE YEARS DOES NOT APPEAR CALCULATED TO PLEASE  
THE AWOLOWOS AND AMINU KANOS OF NIGERIA WHO HAVE BEEN  
CHAMPING AT THE BIT FOR NINE YEARS ALREADY.

8. COMPLETE TEXT ADDRESS BEING POUCHED.

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## Message Attributes

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